

2005 Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005)

Kitsap Conservation District



Most Significant Natural Resource Accomplishment

The District funded two demonstration sites at a south county saddle club featuring Best Management Practices commonly used by horse owners. These sites were located in prominent areas of the saddle club and have signage to attract members and explain how the BMPs were constructed. Many horse owners have viewed the examples and the sites will be available in a working capacity for years to come.



Heavy Use Area Protection

Mission of the Kitsap Conservation District

Guiding conservation without regulation – Educating by demonstration – Forming partnerships to accomplish more – We dedicate ourselves to involving the community in better farming practices and natural resource protection now and for the future.

Natural Resource Improvements in 2005 - Summary

- *The District developed 51 BMP designs in FY05 and was responsible for the implementation of 70 water quality BMPs.*
- *The District resolved 28 complaints and violation referrals from regulatory agencies using cooperative approaches that protect surface water from contamination.*

Water Quality Implementation

Water Quality Implementation funds accounted for:

- *28 signed and approved cost share incentive program applications for a total of \$44,469.*
- *\$37,926 in cost share reimbursements to 22 Kitsap County small farmers.*
- *10,101 feet of livestock exclusion fencing*
- *9 waste storage structures*
- *Funding support for 28 BMP designs by the Olympic Cluster engineer*
- *Water Quality Implementation funds supported Technical Service Provider contract development with NRCS*

Basic Funding

- *The most significant use of this funding was to support administrative staff that could not be funded through other granting sources.*
- *Portions of this funding were used for staff training opportunities and travel.*

Local Funding

The District's ILA's with Kitsap County Surface and Storm Water Management (SSWM) Program and the City of Bainbridge Island provide stable funding annually and critical matching funds for leveraging grant opportunities. SSWM funds enable KCD to respond to all requests for assistance in unincorporated Kitsap County. This resulted in:

- *440 site visits with landowners*
- *28 agency referral response site visits*
- *19 Farm Plans,*
- *51 BMP designs,*
- *70 BMP implementations,*
- *71 follow-up O&M visits.*

Puget Sound/Water Quality

This funding is instrumental to the success of the District's Education and Outreach Program. KCD newsletters, county fair booth, agricultural events, annual tree sale fund raiser, presentations, and WRIA 15 water quantity & quality and shellfish closure area response activities. The funding also allowed KCD to participate in the Hood Canal remedial action strategies.

Professional Engineering

One of the highlight designs for '04-'05 was the manure grinder and washing system for the Future Farmers of America farm located at South Kitsap High School. This design, when implemented, will allow the hog holding areas in the barn to be washed rather than bedded with shavings. This will significantly reduce the volume of solid waste that was stored at the farm. Even more importantly, wash water will be drained into an outlet system and will be treated at a sewer plant. This changes many of the management practices at the school farm to more environmentally sound methods. It reduces waste volume and provides a healthier environment for the livestock raised at the farm. One last benefit is the environmental training the youth receive while watching the progress of the project and the changes it brings to their farming practices.

The District Engineer provides BMP designs for designated projects on small farms in Kitsap County. He also assisted district staff in design, inspection, and acceptance of implemented BMPs.

- *Designed 6 bridges and large culvert crossings for farms and private roads to protect water quality and restore fish passage to upstream salmon spawning and rearing areas.*
 - *Designed a manure grinder and flush system to allow the South Kitsap High School agricultural facility to dispose of pig manure through the municipal sanitary sewer system.*
 - *Designed and tested a new bio-engineered bank armor method to protect a residence from stream bank erosion. To date, this new system is performing well.*
 - *Designed 20 small farm BMPs, including storm drainage systems in livestock areas, waste storage structures, heavy use areas, and drainage diversions.*
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Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Kitsap CD has 2 active CREP sites. This accounts for 14.6 acres and 6,982 feet of salmon stream. New contracts are anticipated in 2005-06. One planting was accomplished in FY04.

Livestock/Dairy

- *A survey in targeted watersheds was accomplished assessing land use and livestock keeping practices for AFO/CAFO liability. The survey was sent to 635 livestock owners and preliminary results have been informative, indicating the needs of Kitsap landowners and their management practices. Survey results are still pending.*
 - *Two workshops were held in Kitsap and were attended by 50 livestock owners.*
 - *Informational packets were created and distributed at the Kitsap County Fair. These included CDs with a needs assessment and AFO/CAFO information from EPA.*
 - *An informative article was included in the KCD Summer News discussing AFO/CAFO and how landowners could determine their risk.*
 - *Additional packets of information were distributed to three agricultural clubs in Kitsap.*
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Irrigation Efficiencies

- *Not applicable*

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

Kitsap Conservation District continued to work in 7 small watersheds identified as the most polluted streams in Kitsap. KCD collaborated with Kitsap County Health District in a CCWF grant to provide technical assistance and assessment. The District joined the Health District in a second subcontract for the Barker Creek watershed and continued to work within on planning and restoration. Accomplishments are included in the Small Farms Program results listed below.

Small Farm Programs

All funding sources support the District's Small Farm Program in inventories, farm planning, and design of BMPs, implementation, operation/maintenance, referral response and public education. The small farms program is the mainstay of KCD work. The following accomplishments were completed:

- *Farm Plans Completed - 19*
- *BMP designs Completed – 51*

BMPs implemented as follows:

- *Fencing –11 projects*
 - *Waste Storage Structures – 15 projects*
 - *Underground Outlets, Diversions and Pipelines – 10 projects*
 - *Pasture Plantings and cover crops – 2 projects*
 - *Tree and Shrub Plantings – 20 projects*
 - *Animal Trails and Walkways – 2 projects*
 - *Watering Facilities – 2 projects*
 - *Heavy Use Area Protection – 8 projects*
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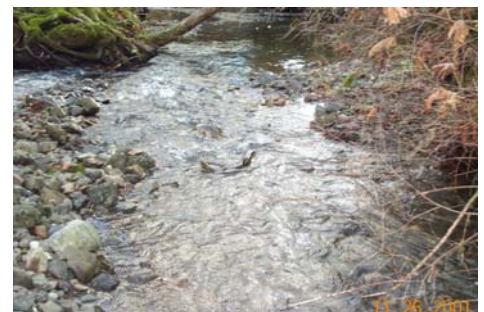
Community Collaboration & Coordination

- *2 landowners were assisted through the County's Open Space Tax Exemption Program application.*
 - *Facilitated 28 State cost share applications and 4 Federal incentive program applications*
 - *Annual "Doo For You" aged manure give-away event sponsored by KCD, Kitsap County Fair and Kitsap County*
 - *Cutthroats of Carpenter Creek urban education meetings, Stillwaters EcoFest and several school events to promote healthy environments.*
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Marketing/Outreach & Education

- *Educational Events are funded by the Puget Sound Grant and other local funding sources. KCD accomplished the following in 2005:*
- *Two newsletters published in August 2004 and January 2005. These were mailed to 6,500 residents in Kitsap County.*
- *The District maintained its website:www.kitsapcd.org*
- *Our tree sale event distributed more than 42,000 trees and shrubs into the community.*
- *Representation of conservation issues at 47 community agricultural groups.*
- *Presentations given at 45 events that included schools, scouts and saddle clubs.*

Washington Conservation Districts assisting
Land managers with their conservation choices



Salmon spawning in Union River